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South Vietnam: Communist mortar and rocket attacks continued at a relatively high level during the weekend.

Some 100 allied positions were struck in the past two days by light enemy shellings. There was stiff ground fighting near the Demilitarized Zone and at a half dozen locations in other areas of the country.

An enemy threat is building in the central highlands, where the North Vietnamese appear to be closing in again on an allied Special Forces camp. The target this time appears to be Dak Seang, a remote outpost in Kontum Province manned largely by montagnard tribesmen and US advisers. The camp has been shelled repeatedly during the past few days.

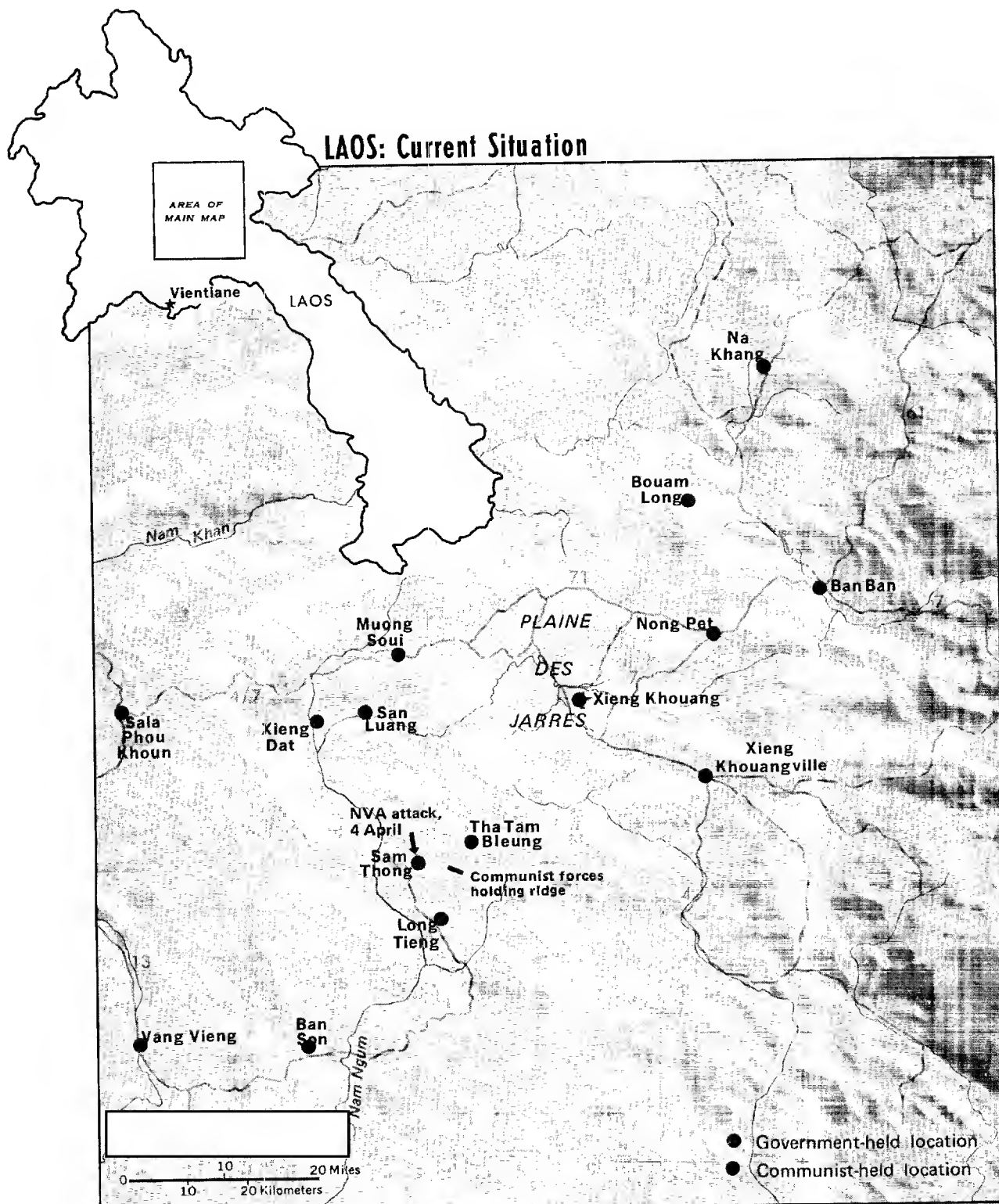
The South Vietnamese are now operating largely on their own in the highlands. Major elements of the US 4th Infantry Division, which operated in the region for four years, have been pulled out of both Kontum and Pleiku provinces in recent months.

Preliminary casualty reports indicate that US combat deaths last week may approach 150. South Vietnamese losses will be much higher, reaching over 600 killed according to the current rough count. Enemy losses will probably be well over 3,000 dead.

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Laos: Fighting continues south of the Plaine des Jarres, but no significant change has developed in the tactical situation over the weekend.

North Vietnamese troops launched their first major attack in almost a week as they pushed within a mile of the Sam Thong airstrip on 4 April. At last report, reinforced government troops backed by heavy air support were still holding the base and most of the Sam Thong valley.

The situation continues to be quiet around the main guerrilla base at Long Tieng. Guerrilla forces continue to patrol the valleys north of the base, but they are still having trouble dislodging Communist forces on an important ridge between Long Tieng and Tha Tam Bleung.

[On the political front, rumors continue to circulate regarding the return of Phoumi Nosavan.

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Cambodia: Current Situation



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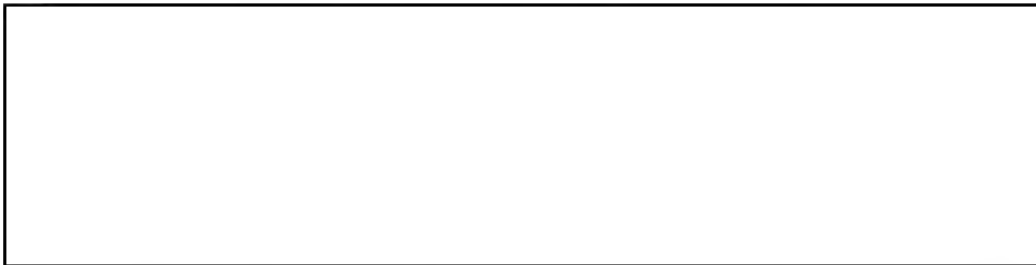
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Cambodia: Communist military pressure along the border is meeting with some success.

Several government outposts have been attacked, and on 4 April the Communists attacked Chipou on the major road some 12 miles from the border. This is the deepest penetration the Communists have made in Svay Rieng, and is the first time they have hit a heavily populated area. There is no indication, however, that a major push is under way.



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[Elsewhere, there are signs that the Communists are preparing to increase antigovernment activity soon in the north. The government has long had trouble extending its control over the isolated and sparsely populated northern provinces, and it is possible that the Communists may move to establish a "liberated area" there.]

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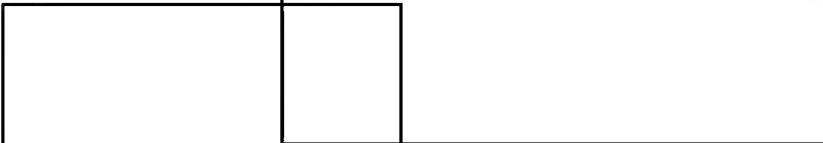
[] since late March over 600 Sihanouk sympathizers have fled from their homes in Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, and Mondolkiri provinces to join Vietnamese Communist or Cambodian insurgent forces. []

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[] Communist troops are already transporting munitions from south Laos to support insurgents in the northeast.]

In another appeal from Peking, Sihanouk for the first time implied that he would return to Cambodia in the "near future." His message on 4 April again asked the Cambodian people to take to the "bush." [] (Map)]

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Burma: A drive against government corruption has assumed aspects of a political purge aimed at associates of former trade minister Tin Pe.

Arrests that began in mid-March of corrupt figures in government trade organizations formerly under Tin Pe's supervision are continuing. They now include persons identified with him in other sectors of the government. The number arrested may now be over 100. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Tin Pe was downgraded in cabinet rank on 24 March because of his connections with the arrested officials.

The government may cite medical reasons for Tin Pe's departure; he has been in poor health for some time. Once considered the second-ranking member of the Burmese military regime, he has been eclipsed by Vice Chief of Staff San Yu, who now appears to be in the number-two position. Indicative of San Yu's new influence is the fact that one of his proteges in Tin Pe's trade complex has escaped suspicion and has been elevated to vice minister of trade.

Ne Win apparently still feels in command of the situation. He is continuing to plan for a trip to Expo 70 in mid-April. [REDACTED]

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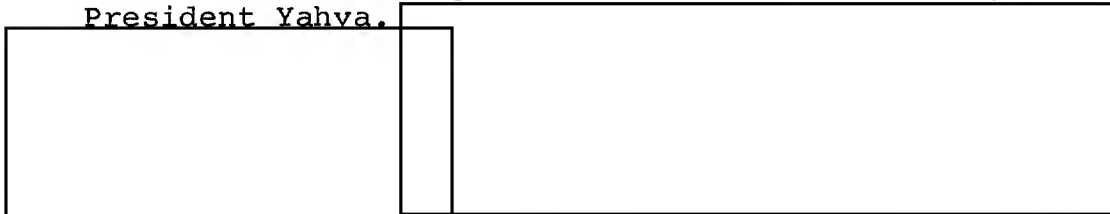
Pakistan: President Yahya Khan's recent package of pronouncements on constitutional, electoral, and administrative matters has drawn a mixed reaction throughout the country.

West Pakistanis are generally well satisfied with Yahya's constitutional proposals. Some disappointment has been expressed, however, with the plan for again dividing West Pakistan into four separate provinces. The smaller of the newly designated ethnolinguistic units are reportedly unhappy with their share of the seats for the national constituent assembly.

In East Pakistan, the President's guidelines have received less approval. The most important parties, including the Awami League of influential Bengali politician Mujibur Rahman, have voiced strong reservations about the portions of Yahya's legal framework that limit the sovereignty of the constituent assembly and provide for a presidential veto over any proposed constitution.

There is also skepticism about promises to eliminate economic and political disparities among the various provinces as well as concern about the still undecided question of provincial autonomy, a major East Pakistani demand.

On balance, Yahya's proposals seem to have strengthened his image of fairness and statesmanship. Most political groups--perhaps all but the extreme left, in fact--are expected to accept the guidelines as a satisfactory plan for proceeding toward elections in October. The key question now is whether Mujibur Rahman's strong criticism will lead him to challenge the framework laid down by President Yahya.

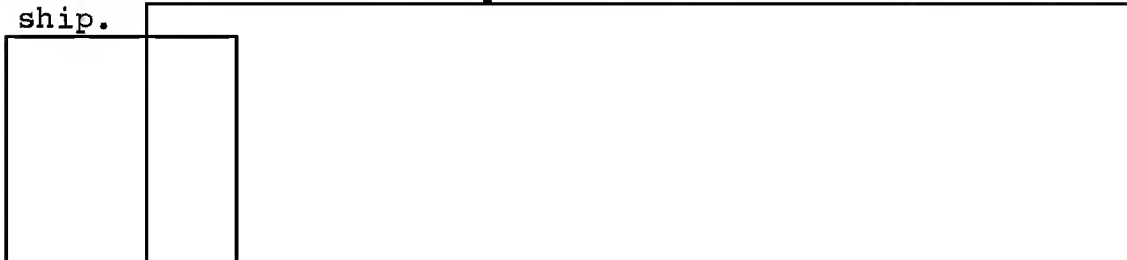


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Uruguay: The government take-over of the formerly autonomous secondary school system in late February is being challenged by students and teachers now that the new school year has begun.

Student disorders and an illegal 24-hour teachers' strike marked the resumption of classes on 30 March. The appointment on 2 April of a skilled and respected politician as minister of education could relax the tension, however.

Resistance to President Pacheco's efforts to lessen the political influence of extreme leftists in the education system has also developed in congress. The legislators look at the issue as another round in their continuing battle with the executive branch to establish the parameters of their relationship.



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NOTES

Brazil: Terrorists failed in an attempt to kidnap the principal officer of the US Consulate in Porto Alegre on 4 April. The official was shot but is reported in good condition. [REDACTED]

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Haiti: The Duvalier government has arrested four leaders of an alleged coup plot, including the army quartermaster general. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Duvalier has been highly sensitive to both real and imagined threats to the government in recent months, and the arrests could expand into a purge of some high-ranking officials. He has utilized periodic "housecleanings" in the past to facilitate his one-man control of government. [REDACTED]

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Outer Space: The UN General Assembly's outer space committee has resumed informal consultations at Geneva on the draft convention concerning compensation for damage caused by space vehicles. The Soviets continue strongly to oppose binding arbitration as the ultimate recourse in disputes over the extent of compensation. Moscow maintains that binding arbitration infringes on national sovereignty. A number of compromises are being considered by the committee members, who are under some pressure from the less-developed countries to produce an agreed convention before the fall session of the General Assembly. [REDACTED]

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